

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 IO-13 /135 W

-----053469 310410Z /20

R 301440Z MAR 78 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5069

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL DOUALA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, CM, NI, EK

SUBJ: MOBIL OIL EXPLORATION AND CAMEROON/NIGERIAN, EQUATORIAL
GUINEAN OFFSHORE BOUNDARIES

REF: 77 YAOUNDE 4177

1 CONSULATE DOUALA INFORMED BY FRANCOIS YDIER, DIRECTOR MOBIL
CAMEROON, THAT MOBIL IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT SEISMIC SURVEY OF ITS
OFFSHORE CONCESSION (#PH 17, BLOC NW) DURING MONTHS OF MAY AND
JUNE. MOBIL CONCESSION BORDERS UPON BOTH NIGERIAN AND EQUATORIAL
GUINEAN OFFSHORE BOUNDARIES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE ILL-DEFINED.
YDIER CLAIMED THAT C.C. KANGA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY
OF MINES AND ENERGY, HAD TOLD HIM THAT GURC VERY CONCERNED

ABOUT SEISMIC SHIP MOVING INTO WATERS NEAR BONDARIES AND WAS
CONSIDERING WHAT "PROTECTIVE MEASURES" SHOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT.
YDIER HIMSELF PROFESSED TO BE UNCONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY OF
SEISMIC SHIP BUT DID SAY THAT SITUATION COULD CHANGE RADICALLY
IF PERMANENTLY EMPLACED PLATFOREMS WERE LOCATED NEAR THE
BOUNDARY LINES. IF THE RESULTS OF THE SEISMIC SURVEY
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ARE POSITIVE, MOBIL COULD BRING IN EXPLORATION DRILLING RIGS AS
SOON AS NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

2. EMBOFFS RAISED ISSUE OF SEISMIC SHIP IN BORDER AREAS FIRST
WITH HEAD OF CHANCELLERY MAIHA AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND LATER
WITH HENRY FOSSUNG, DEP DIR OF DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS AT MFA. MAIHA STATED THAT ALTHOUGH OBASANJO PERSONALLY

WILLING TO ACCEPT PRESENT BOUNDARY LINE (INITIALLY CONCEDED BY GOWON IN 1975 AND CONFIRMED BY OBASANJO AT GAROUA IN AUGUST 1977) MOST OF HIS CABINET OPPOSED. NEVERTHELESS, MAIHA SAID NIGERIA WOULD NOT CONTEST POINT BECAUSE OF PAST SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING BY AHIDJO DURING CIVIL WAR AND BECAUSE NIGERIA FIRMLY COMMITTED TO GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY TOWARD CAMEROON. FOSSUNG OF MFA ALSO DOES NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS WITH NIGERIA AS RESULT OF SEISMIC SHIP IN BORDER AREAS.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AT AUGUST MEETING IN GAROUA (REFTEL) AHIDJO AND OBASANJO CONFIRMED PREVIOUS AGREEMENT ON BONDARY LINE UP TO POINT G (8 DEGREES 23' 19" LONGITUDE; 4 DEGREES 17' 00" LATITUDE). CHIEFS OF STATE ALSO DECIDED THAT MIXED CAMEROONIAN/ NIGERIAN COMMISSION SHOULD MAKE PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING LINE BEYOND THIS POINT, SINCE THEN MIXED COMMISSION HAS NOT MET ALTHOUGH NIGERIAN EMBASSY PROPOSED TO LAGOS THAT MEETING BE HELD IN FEBRUARY (LAGOS DID NOT RESPOND TO PROPOSAL). MAJOR DIFFICULTY IS THAT BEYOND POINT G IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INVOLVE EQUATORIAL GUINEA IN NEGOTIATIONS AND NEITHER GOVERNMENT IS SURE EXACTLY HOW TO DO THIS. ENTIRE OFFSHORE BOUNDARY BETWEEN MACIAS NGUEMA ISLAND (EX FERNANDO PO) AND CAMEROON MAINLAND IS ILL-DEFINED AND GURC MAY PREFER TO LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE. GOVERNMENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA IS COMPLETELY INVOLVED WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MOBIL SEISMIC SHIP WILL CAUSE ISSUE OF BOUNDARY TO BE RAISED UNLESS IT STRAYS INTO AREA WHICH CLEARLY BELONGS TO E.G.
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